

REMARKS

Claim Status

Claims 1-5, 8, 9, 11, 12, 15, 16, 19-24, and 30 are pending with claims 25-29 being withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 1-5, 8, 9, 11, 12, 15, 16, 19-24, and 30 stand rejected. Claims 1, 3, 4, and 9-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,083,047 to Paagman, hereinafter "Paagman." Claims 1, 4, 5, 13-24, and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,461,202 to Kline, hereinafter "Kline." Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Paagman in view of the American Heritage Dictionary. Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Paagman.

Claims 1, 16, and 20 have been amended. Claims 31-36 have been newly added. No new matter has been added. Support can be found in the specification as originally filed at least at Figure 4 and at page 7, lines 21-22.

Applicant respectfully traverses the grounds for rejection and requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-5, 8, 9, 11, 12, 15, 16, 19-24, and 30 in view of the following.

Examiner Interview

While no agreement was reached during the examiner interview of July 19, 2004, applicant appreciates the examiner's time in discussing the claim language.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 103

Independent claims 1, 16, and 20, as amended, includes features that are neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited references, either taken alone or in combination, namely as represented by claim 1:

1. (Currently Amended) An electrical connector comprising:
a substantially planar dielectric;
a substantially planar ground plane disposed on one planar surface of the dielectric;
and

a plurality of differential pair signal conductors disposed on the opposing planar surface of the dielectric, each of the plurality of differential pair signal conductors having a corresponding pair of signal contact pins, each signal contact pin of the pair of signal contact pins comprising a) a surface mount portion surface mounted to one of the plurality of differential pair signal conductors, b) a mating portion extending from the surface mount portion, and c) an offset portion between the mating portion and the surface mount portion offsetting the mating portion from the surface mount portion, wherein for each pair of signal contact pins, the offset portions of the pair of signal contact pins offset the mating portions of the pair of signal contact pins to opposite sides of the dielectric. (emphasis added)

Paagman does not disclose or suggest a pair of signal contact pins having mating portions offset to opposite sides of the dielectric, as recited by the claims. In contrast, all of the signal contact pins in Paagman are on the same side of the circuit substrate (Paagman at Fig. 8.)

Kline does not disclose or suggest a pair of signal contact pins having mating portions offset to opposite sides of the dielectric, as recited by the claims. In contrast, all of the signal contact pins in Kline are on the same side of the insulating layer 104 (Kline at Fig. 4).

Accordingly, applicant submits that the cited references, either alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest the features of independent claims 1, 16, or 20. Additionally, inasmuch as dependent claims 2-5, 8, 9, 11, 12, 15, 19, and 21-24 (which have also been rejected) are dependent on claim 1, 16, or 20, these claims are patentable over the cited references, at least by virtue of their dependency. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal the rejections of claims 1-5, 8, 9, 11, 12, 15, 16, 19-24, and 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 103.

Newly Added Claims

Claims 31-36 have been added to provide further definition.


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Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, applicant respectfully submits that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the office action and an early notice of allowance are respectfully requested. In the event that the examiner cannot allow the present application for any reason, the examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney, Raymond N. Scott Jr. at (215) 564-8951, to discuss resolution of any remaining issues.

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